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### **Doing My Part for the Environment**

The whir of the computer sounded in the background as I struggled. A whirlwind of computer paper surrounded me and a black ink was smeared on my hands. The ribbons of the printer moved back and forth making threatening noise. I wiped away the bead of sweat dripping down my brow, took a deep breath, and made one last attempt. I reached into the printer and pried. Finally, with much difficulty, I extracted the printer cartridge! Because I was per say “technologically challenged”, this was not an easy task. So, why was I doing this? I was doing my part for the environment!

It is estimated that three-hundred and seventy-five million empty ink cartridges are thrown into landfills every year. The U.S. recycles only about twenty-eight percent of the waste that it produces. Only about five percent of the ink cartridges sold is actually recycled. Therefore, ninety-five percent of the printer cartridges produced are thrown away and eventually end up in landfills. This is very bad news because the plastic used to make printer cartridges is expected to take a whopping one thousand years to decompose. By recycling printer cartridges, the amount of waste is reduced in the landfills around the world. The materials used to make printer cartridges can be recycled and reused, thus reducing waste and making the environment cleaner. Recycling printer cartridges is one way to preserve the environment for the future generation.

Recycling printer cartridges is very easy and worthwhile. Printer cartridges are expensive and remanufactured printer cartridges only cost about ten percent of the

original price. By recycling printer cartridges you can save yourself money and help the environment at the same time. You can make a gain for yourself, while making a positive gain for the entire world. Helping the environment can be effortless. A lot of new printer cartridges even come with an envelope in the package to mail the old print cartridge back to a recycling plant. Some companies even have school fund raiser organizations geared towards recycling printer cartridges. Many companies even pay money for used printer cartridges. The environment needs all the help that it can get and it can be done very easily.

Recycling printer cartridges is a very small thing. When looking at the big picture, the significance of one person recycling all of the printer cartridges they use in a lifetime is probably very small. Without any help, one person trying to make a difference is a lost cause. But, when we all cooperate and work as a group to help the environment, the significance can be unbelievably large. When a small thing is done to help the environment, by many people, the difference it makes is evident. If more people start recycling their printer cartridges, the world will become a better place. When we work together for the environment, everyone, including the future generations, benefit! So, keep on working, printing, and typing, just remember to recycle those printer cartridges! By doing that one thing, we can all be DOING OUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!